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COUNTRY UAR/Israel/Jordan

REPORT NO. CS-3/370,021

SUBJECT Views of Indian Diplomat in Cairo
Regarding the Palestinian Question

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DATE ACQ. UAR, Cairo (30 June 1958)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A non-Egyptian news correspondent (B). Appraisal of Content: 2 (reportorial accuracy).

An Indian diplomat in Cairo made the following statements on or about 30 June 1958 regarding the Palestinian question: 261-3116

- a) Egyptian secret police are closely surveilling Maj Amin Husayni, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and have thus far foiled two of his attempts to incite trouble in Jordanian refugee camps. 1
- b) Husayni is at variance with the Egyptian Government because he is constantly promoting military action to regain Palestine; he also calls for action against Jordan, against whom he has a particular grudge.
- c) President of the UAR Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir is determined to keep Gaza out of the UAR until some settlement of the Palestinian question can be found. 2

Headquarters Comments

1. The following are some earlier reports on Husayni: It was reported that Husayni had been given one million Egyptian pounds (donor not stipulated) to form a separate Palestinian Government which was to be located in the Gaza Strip area; this supposedly was to be an answer to the Palestinian refugee problem. Israel was not to disclose the existence of a secret Israeli/Egyptian agreement. TDCS-3/357,994 from an official British service from a source described as a regular source from a well-placed informant stated that Jordanian authorities had noted increased activities in the West Bank by supporters of Husayni who is agitating for the creation of a separate West Bank state which would join the U.A.R. CS-3/359,469 contained an appraisal of Husayni's political status and activities, which negated the impression given in other reports of Husayni's importance in alleged plans to create an independent Arab Palestine State. CS-3/352,348 credited agents of Husayni with smuggling arms into West Jordan. Associated Press on 15 May 1958 reported that Gaza's Legislative Council announced that day the formation of a Palestinian National Union. TDCS-3/348,731 reported that 'Abd-al-Masir is wary of cooperation with Husayni since Husayni is still financed by King Saud. Al-Jumhuriyah reported that on 16 May 1958 the Gaza Legislative Council formed a Palestine National Union and created a committee composed of Council members to draw up a charter. It was also

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decided to establish a "Palestine Liberation Fund" to be used for achieving Palestine's independence; a "Palestine Liberation Week" will be designated for the collection of funds.

2. A report from another U.S. Agency dated 19 March 1958 stated that Husayni, now a resident of Cairo, announced on 16 March that his Palestine Arab Government formed in 1948 in Gaza is still the legitimate government of all Palestine and wishes to join the UAR. On 4 April 1958 the Associated Press reported that the Gaza Legislative Council passed unanimously a resolution calling for membership in the UAR. On or about 17 May 1958 the Associated Press reported that Gaza's Legislative Council announced on 15 May the formation of a Palestine National Union. TDCS-3/369,111, date of information late August 1958, reported that if King Husayn left Jordan or was removed by a popular uprising 'Abd-al-Nasir would seek the following: that West Jordan and Gaza form an Arab Palestine state with borders guaranteed by the Arab League and the United Nations; this state would not be committed to join UAR in any form.